

# THE ORDER for Swannes.

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First you shall inquire if there be any person that doth possesse any Swan and hath not compounded with the Quenes maiestie for his marke. That is to say, vi.s.viii.d. for his marke during his life. If you know any such, you shall present them, that all such Swannes and Signets may be sealed for the Quene.

Also you shall enquire if any person do possesse any Swan or Signet that may not dispend the clere p[er]tely value of five markes of frechold, (except heire apparant to the crown) the you shall present him. 22. Ed. 4.

Also if any person or persons do byine away any Swan or Swannes byading or providing to byad, be it upon his owne ground or any other mans ground, he or they so offending shall suffer one yeres imprisonment and fine at the Quenes pleasure. xiii.s.iii.d. 11. Hen. 7.

Item if there be found any Weres upon the Riuers not hauing any grates before them, it is lawfull for every owner, Swan maister or Swanheard, to pull up or cut down the birth, net or gin, of the said Weres

or Weres.

Item if any person or persons be found carrying any Swan hoke, and the same person being no Swanheard nor accompanied with two Swanheards. Every such person shall pay to the Quene xiii.s. and iii.d. that is to say, iii.s.iii.d. to him that will informe, and the rest to the Quene.

Item the ancient custome of this Realme hath and doth allow vnto every owner of such ground where any such Swan shall beire, to take one land bird, and for the same the Quenes maiestie must haue of him that hath the land bird. xii.d.

Item it is ordained that if any person or persons do conuey away or steale away the Egge or Egges of any Swan and the same duly p[ro]oued by two sufficient witnessse, that then every such offender shall pay to the Quene xiii.s.iii.d. for every Egge so taken out of the nest of any Swan.

Item it is ordained every owner that hath any Swannes shall pay iii.d. p[er]ely to the maister of the game for his fee, & his Dinner and Supper free, on the byping day. And if the said maister of the game faile of the iii.d. then he shall distrain the game of every such owner that so doth fail of payment.

Item if there be any person or persons that hath Swannes that both beire upon their seuerall waters and after cometh to the common river, they shall pay a land bird to the Quene, and to be obedient to all Swan lawes, for diuers such persons doth vse it for collusion to defraud the Quene of her right.

Item it is ordained that every person hauing any Swannes shall begin p[er]ely to marke vpon monday next after Trinitie Sunday and no person before, but after as the company may, so that the maister of the Quenes game or his deputy be present. And if any take vpon him or them to marke any Swannes or Signet, to forsaite to the Quenes maiestie for every Swan. xl.s.

Item it is ordained that no person nor persons being owners or Swanheards nor other shall go on marking without the maister of the game be present with other Swanheards next adioyning, vpon pain to forsaite to the Quenes maiestie. xl.s.

Item it is ordained that no person shall hunt any ducks or any other chase in the water or nere the haunt of Swannes in fence time, with any dogges or spaniels from the feast of Easter, to the Sunday next after Trinitie Sunday, vpon paine for every time so in hunting to forsaite. vi.s.viii.d.

Item it is ordained that if any person do set any snares or any maner of nets, Lime or ingins to take Wiltzons or Swannes, from the feast of Easter to the Sunday after Lammas day, he or they to forsaite to the Quenes maiestie for every time so setting. vi.s.viii.d.

Item it is ordained that no person take up any Signet vnmaked nor make any sale of them, but that the Quenes Swanheard or his deputy be present, with other Swanheards next adioyning or haue knowledge of the same, vpon pain to forsaite to the Quene. xl.s.

Item it is ordained that the Swanheard of the Duchy of Lancaster shall by no Swan nor make any sale of them, without the maister of the Swannes or his deputy be present vpon pain to forsaite to the Quenes maiestie xl.s. And in like maner the Quenes Swanheard shall not enter into the liberties of the Duchy without the Quenes Swanheard there be present vpon the like paine to forsaite xl.s.

Item it is ordained that if any Swannes or Signets be found double marked they shall be sealed to the Quenes vse, till it be p[ro]oued to whome the same Swannes or Signets do belong. And if it cannot be p[ro]oued to whome they do belong, that then they to be sealed for the Quene, and her grace to be answered the value of them.

Item it is ordained that no person make any sale of any white Swannes, nor make deliuey of them without the maister of the game be present or his deputy with other Swanheards next adioyning, vpon paine to forsaite. xl.s. Whereof vi. s.viii.d. to him that will informe, and the residue to the Quenes maiestie.

Item it is ordained that no person shall lay leapes, set any nets, nor drag within the common streames or Riuers vpon the day time, from the feast of the Invention of the Crosse, vnto the feast of Lammas, vpon pain as oft as they be found so offending, to forsaite. xx.s.

Item it is ordained that if the maister of the Swannes or his deputy do lease or take up any Swannes as straies for the Quenes maiestie, that he shall keepe them in a pit within xx. foot of the Quenes streame, or within xx. foot of the common hye way & the Quenes subiects may haue a sight of the said Swannes so sealed, vpon paine of xl.s.

Item it is ordained that if any person do rase out, counterfait or alter the marke of any Swan to the hindring or losse of any mans game. And any such offender, duly p[ro]oued before the Quenes maiesties Commissioners of Swannes, shall suffer one whole yeres imprisonment, and pay iii. li. vi.s.viii.d. to the Quene.

Item it is ordained that the commons, that is to say, Dinner or Supper shall not exceede above vi.d. or viii.d. at the most. And if any game be found on that River where such Dinner and Supper is had and the owner of the same game absent nor any for him, the maister of the game or his deputy, to lay vi.d. or viii.d. for every such owner and to be allowed again of every game, whose owner is absent.

Item it is ordained that there shall be no forsaiture of any white Swan nor Signets, but onely to the Quenes grace, as wel within the franchises and liberties as without. And if any do deliuey any Swan or Signet to any person so sealed, but onely to the maister of the Quenes game, or to his deputy to the Quenes vse, he to forsaite vi.s.viii.d. and the Swannes to be restored to the maister of the game.

Item it is ordained that no person shall take no gray Swannes nor Signets nor white Swannes flying but that he shall with, in. iiii. dayes next after deliuey it or them to the maister of the Quenes game, and the taker to haue for his paines in taking the said Swan. viii.d.

Item it is ordained that every person hauing any game of his owne, shall not be Swanheard for himselfe, nor keeper of any other mans Swannes, vpon pain to forsaite to the Quenes maiestie. xl.s.

Item it is ordained that no Swanheard, fisher nor fowler, shall vex any other Swanheard, fisher nor fowler by way of action, but onely afoze the Quenes maiesties Justices of sessions of Swannes vpon pain of forsaite to the Quenes grace. xl.s.

Item the maister of the Quenes game shall not take away any vnmaked Swan coupled with an other mans Swan for breaking of the bynd, and when they do beire the one part of the signets to the Quene, and the other to the owner of the marked Swan.

Item it is ordained that if any beire be led with one Swan, the Swan and the signets shall be sealed for the Quene till due p[ro]ofe be had whome they are, and whome was the Swan that is away, be it Cobbe or Pen.

God save the Quene.

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